Treatment with typhoid vaccine shows startling results; begins in SD

A San Diego doctor has joined a group of about 15 physicians across the country who are administering a typhoid vaccine protocol patented by a New York-based inventor named Salvatore J. Catapano. According to physicians taking part in the typhoid vaccine protocol, the treatment has yielded very hopeful results.

In an open letter to the gay community, Luke R. Olmsted, MD, a recent graduate of UCSD Medical Center and volunteer physician at UCSD's Owen Clinic, said, "I have spoken with over 20 different people who have benefited from the vaccine. I have personally treated six patients for more than six weeks and have seen how rapid an improvement is possible."

Catapano, a lab researcher who received a patent on the typhoid vaccine protocol as a treatment for AIDS from the US Patent Office, asserts that "AIDS" is really syphilis, although he has often been accused of oversimplifying the problem. Catapano replies, however, that there is nothing simple about syphilis as it exists today.

To receive a patent from the US Patent Office it is necessary to present "clear and convincing evidence" that the invention can meet its claims. Although the typhoid vaccine is not a new invention, Catapano's protocol using the vaccine for AIDS treatment is.

Catapano's abstract filed with the US Patent Office describes the protocol as "a method for treating a human patient to effect the remission of AIDS, which comprises parenterally administering to the AIDS patient typhoid vaccine in a therapeutically effective amount that is sufficient to provide immunostimulating activity."

"It has been found," the abstract continues, "that a complete immunization and remission of a person afflicted with AIDS may be achieved by the parenteral administration with typhoid vaccine with no observed toxicity. Since one object of this invention is to enhance the immune response of the body to combat AIDS, any other treatment, such as chemotherapy and radiation therapy that would reduce the immune repose of the body, should be discontinued."

To receive a patent from the US Patent Office, an inventor files an application with the office that proves to the satisfaction of a patent examiner that the invention can do what its inventor claims. In general, the more remarkable the claim, the more data required, and applications concerning AIDS receive special scrutiny. At least four medical examiners reviewed Catapano's patent application and approved it.

When Catapano met his first AIDS patient in 1985, the PWA had Kaposi's sarcoma lesions covering his feet, ankles and calves; swollen lymph glands; thrush (a fungus at the back of the mouth); chronic sore throat; and suffered from exhaustion. After three weeks of treatment, the PWA's sore throat was gone. After two weeks, the thrush was gone. After six weeks, there was no longer fatigue, and the patient was working full-time. Within two months, half the Kaposi's sarcoma legions were gone and the patient's blood work was completely normal.

Catapano applied for the patent after receiving similar results from 12 patients, and word of his success has begun to spread quickly.

In Los Angeles, Dr. German Maisonet, who currently treats 30 patients with the protocol, told the *New York Native*, "I really like the results." According to Maisonet, his patients are gaining in white cell counts and percentages of lymphocytes and platelets, and have increased T4 cell counts.

The reports of success using the typhoid vaccine have caused some skeptical scrutiny from the California Department of Health Services. According to Dr. Maisonet, DHS suspicions have been raised because the treatment has been publicized as a "cure"

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for AIDS. However, neither Catapano nor any of the physicians who administer his patented treatment have claimed it to be so.

"Typhoid vaccine is considered a generic drug," San Diego's Dr. Olmsted points out. "No phamaceutical company stands to make millions (as with AZT) to develop it as a treatment for AIDS. A government-funded protocol will take years if ever to come about. The cost, at $60 per week, is far less than AZT. Some insurance companies are reimbursing for the cost of the treatments. As more patients demand typhoid vaccine, its acceptance will grow," Olmsted predicted.

According to Olmsted, typhoid vaccine stimulates the bone marrow to produce white blood cells and acts to raise total lymphocytes, which can be criticallly depleted in HIV-related illness. Side effects may include soreness at the injection site and a small fever and aching feeling for 24 hours after each weekly treatment. The severity of symptoms depends on the patient and his individual immune system. A thorough discussion of possible risks from typhoid vaccine treatment are discussed before patients can enroll in the protocol, Olmsted said.

"For ten years we have watched the slow decapitation of our community," Dr. Olmsted said in his open letter, "waiting for some 'breakthrough' from the medical establishment. We are asked to wait patiently by the FDA. Others look frantically for anything that might work. There have been many promises. Many of us are jaundiced to *new* therapies, traditional or alternate. Some believe (naively) that inexpensive, nontoxic therapies would be rapidly accepted and applied by the medical community."

Dr. Olmsted is anxious to have people become aware of the typhoid vaccine treatment option. Those interested in the protocol can call Olmsted at 237-1291. Persons who cannot afford the cost of treatment can send their names to be placed on a waiting list. Olmsted is already giving treatments at no charge. ▼